## **How Many Elk Can Live in This Park?**

**Objective**: This *Project Wild* activity will help students identify the components of an animal's

habitat and understand that each component is needed for survival. They will also

their

recognize the consequences of habitat loss and habitat improvement.

**Procedure**: Students become elk and have to gather important components of

habitat in this physically active game. The components of the habitat are different colored cards on which the first letter of the component is written. The components are food, water, bedding site, hiding place and safe travel corridors - F, W, B, H and T. For a class of 30 students make 30 cards of each of the 5 colors/components. (Included in this packet is a page of letters

that can be made into component cards using your school copying

machine and magic markers).

Start by telling the students to pick a special spot (may be their desk). This will be their "home site". Distribute all of the component cards on the ground in the center of the room. On the word "go" the elk may pick up one card at a time and return with it to their "home site". They may then walk back to get another card until all of the components have been picked up.

After all of the cards are picked up, discuss what each card represents. Only the students who have one of each of the five needed components will survive. Once the students know that they have to have one of each card, let them try again to see who will survive. Vary the game by withholding some of the component cards to represent habitat loss, and adding extra cards of a component to represent habitat improvement. How many survive under each situation?

Discussion:

Ask the students why some survived and some didn't. Would this happen in the wild? What would happen if all animals always survived; none ever died? Would the surviving animals have enough to eat? What would happen to the grasses or the prairie?